

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:
  - a storage device configured to store digital data;
  - an input device configured to set a compression
  - 5 ratio of the stored digital data; and
  - a writing device configured to write the set
  - compression ratio as additional data for the stored
  - digital data to said storage device.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further
- 10 comprising:
  - a compression device configured to compress the
  - stored digital data in accordance with the additional
  - data.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
- 15 said writing device writes the additional data
- before or after said storage device stores the digital
- data.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
- said writing device changes the additional data
- 20 after said storage device stores the digital data.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
- said storage device stores a plurality of frames
- of compressed image data;
- said input device sets a recompression ratio of
- 25 the compressed image data stored in said storage device
- for each frame; and
- said writing device writes the set recompression

ratio for each frame as the additional data in said storage device, said apparatus further comprising:

5 a device configured to recompress the compressed image data stored in said storage device according to the additional data and store the recompressed data in said storage device.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage device saves compressed music data comprising a plurality of tunes;

10 said input device sets a recompression ratio of the compressed music data stored in said storage device; and

15 said writing device writes the set recompression ratio for each tune as the additional data in said storage device, said apparatus further comprising:

a device configured to recompress the compressed music data stored in said storage device according to the additional data and store the recompressed data in said storage device.

20 7. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein, the computer readable program code means comprising:

25 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store digital data;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to set a compression ratio of the stored

digital data; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to write the set compression ratio as additional data for the stored digital data.

5           8. The article of manufacture according to claim 7, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to compress the stored digital data in accordance with the additional data.

10           9. The article of manufacture according to claim 7, wherein said writing computer readable program code means causes a computer to write the additional data before or after storing the digital data.

15           10. The article of manufacture according to claim 7, wherein said writing computer readable program code means causes a computer to change the additional data after storing the digital data.

20           11. The article of manufacture according to claim 7, wherein said storing computer readable program code means causes a computer to store a plurality of frames of compressed image data;

said input computer readable program code means causes a computer to set a recompression ratio of the stored compressed image data for each frame; and

25           said writing computer readable program code means causes a computer to write the set recompression ratio for each frame as the additional data, said apparatus

further comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing  
a computer to recompress the stored compressed image  
data according to the additional data and store the  
5 recompressed data.

12. The article of manufacture according to  
claim 7, wherein

said storage computer readable program code means  
causes a computer to save compressed music data  
10 comprising a plurality of tunes;

said input computer readable program code means  
causes a computer to set a recompression ratio of the  
stored compressed music data; and

said writing computer readable program code means  
15 causes a computer to write the set recompression ratio  
for each tune as the additional data, said apparatus  
further comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing  
a computer to recompress the stored compressed music  
20 data according to the additional data and store the  
recompressed data.